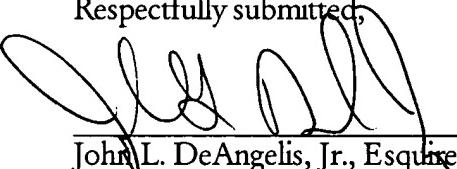


REMARKS

Claims 1-19 as initially submitted in the continuing application have been cancelled, without prejudice, and replaced by the new claims 20-55 as set forth above. Also, an amendment to the specification to update patent application reference information has been proposed.

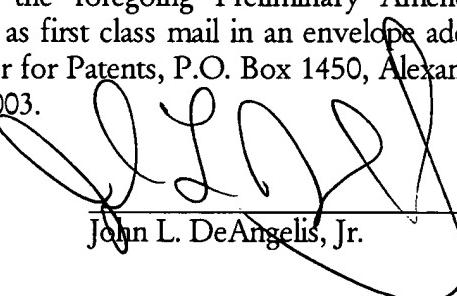
The Applicant contends that no new matter has been added by the claims presented by this Preliminary Amendment as adequate support is found in the specification for the claims presented herein. The Applicant respectfully requests consideration of these new claims when the application is taken up for examination. In the event any questions arise, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any aspects of the present invention.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Preliminary Amendment is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 17 day of October, 2003.


John L. DeAngelis, Jr.